

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03168 132355Z

12

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5410

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3168

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, AORG, GE, GW

SUBJ: PROPOSED USE OF GERMAN IN UN DOCUMENTS

REF: STATE 198399

1. AMB SCALI TOOK OCCASION OF COURTESY CALL BY NEW FRG
PERM REP VON WECHMAR TO STATE OUR OPPOSITION TO FRG/GDR/
AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL TO HAVE SLECTED UN DOCUMENTS TRANSLATED
INTO GERMAN. VON WECHMAR SAID THE PROPOSAL WILL BE FOR GERMAN-
LANGUAGE COUNTRIES TO PICK UP THE TAB FOR TTHE FIRST
THREE YEARS AFTER WHICH THE COST WOULD GRADUALLY BE MET BY
THE UN BUDGET UNTIL EVENTUALLY IT WOULD BE FINANCED
ENTIRELY BY THE UN. AMB. SCALI SAID THIS DOES NOT SOLVE THE
LONGTERM PROBLEM AND POINTED OUT THE DANGERS OF LANGUAGE
PROLIFERATION. CONSISTENT WITH OUR STAND ON ARABIC LAST
YEAR, WE WOULD HENCEFORTH SPEAK, VOTE AND WORK AGAINST ANY
NEW LANGUAGES NOT PAID FOR BY THEIR USERS. OUR HOPE IS THAT
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03168 132355Z

FRG WOULD RECONSIDER AND DECIDE TO DEFER ACTIVE GA

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL.

2. VON WECHMAR SAID THE US STAND CAME AS A SURPRISE TO HIM SINCE HE UNDERSTOOD WE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND WE MADE NO OBJECTION DURING A RECENT NATO DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT. SCALI SAID WE SYMPATHETIC TO FRG WISHES BUT COST WAS IMPORTANT FACTOR. FURTHERMORE OUR SOUNDINGS IN RECENT WEEKS ELICITED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM AMONG OTHER UN DELEGATIONS. GROWTH OF UN BUDGET IS A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN TO US. WE REGRETTED THAT WE HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED BEFORE ITEM INSCRIBED.

3. VON WECHMAR SAID GERMAN LANGUAGE PROPOSAL IS IMPORTANT TO FRG PUBLIC OPINION; IT IS BEING PUBLICIZED IN WEST GERMANY AS THE FIRST COMMON VENTURE OF THIS KIND BY THE TWO GERMANY'S, AND IF FRG DROPS IT PEOPLE WOULD WONDER IF IT WAS REALLY THE GDR THAT LOST INTEREST AND PRESSURED THE BONN GOVERNMENT TO ABANDON THE IDEA. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WAS POSSIBLE GDR WOULD PICK UP THE IDEA AND CLAIM THE SOLVE POLITICAL CREDIT FOR IT. FURTHERMORE, FONMIN GENTSCHER, WHO IS MORE POLITICALLY ORIENTED THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, HAS PERSONAL STAKE IN THE ISSUE. A CABINET DECISION HAVING BEEN TAKEN TO PURSUE THE MATTER AT THE 29TH GA, VON WECHMAR DOUBTED IT COULD BE REVERSED, BUT TOOK CAREFUL NOTES OF SCALI'S REMARKS AND PROMISED TO REPORT THEM FULLY TO BONN.

4. VON WECHMAR FINALLY ASKED WHETHER WE COULD SETTLE FOR A RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT ANY FUTURE LANGUAGES (AFTER GERMAN) WOULD BE ENTIRELY ON A "PAY FOR WHAT YOU USE" BASIS. SCALI SAID THE POORER COUNTRIES WOULD NEVER STAND STILL FOR SUCH A FORMULA.

5. WE ASSURED VON WECHMAR THAT DESPITE OUR VIEWS ON THE SUBSTANCE WE WOULD NOT OPPOSE INSCRIPTION OF ITEM IN GENERAL COMMITTEE.
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